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have attached a great importance to these natural objects, and I think that these figures point to a worship of the sun by the tribes which executed them. The clustering of the inscriptions in prominent places, and especially on and in the vicinity of the rock tower at Ereré, seems to me to indicate that these places had something of a sacred character and were often resorted to. Many of the figures seem to be the capricious daubings of visitors, as, for instance, the human faces drawn on angular rock projections. Some of the animal forms may have had a sacred character.

I know of no trace of sun worship among the uncivilized Indians of Pará to-day, nor do they make rock paintings or inscriptions. The greater part of the Brazilian Indians, such as the Tupís, Botocudos, etc., appear to have had no idea of a God, and no form of worship. We have no historical account of the practice of sun worship among the ancient Indians of the Amazonas. In the burial stations of Marajó small clay figures occur which appear to be idols. The probabilities are, that the tribes anciently inhabiting the Amazonas were more advanced in religious ideas than those Brazilian Indians of which history gives us an account.

DR. KOCH'S MISSOURIUM.

BY P. R. HOY, M. D.

IN March, 1840, I visited the spot on the Pomme de Terre, Benton county, Missouri, where Dr. Koch had recently disinterred the skeleton of that large male Mastodon now in the British Museum, which the Doctor mounted and named *Missourium tetracaulodon*. Owen subsequently remounted the specimen and made a *Mastodon giganteus* out of Dr. Koch's distorted work.

The excavation was about fifteen feet in diameter and six feet deep, half filled with water. I was told by one of the men who assisted in the excavation, that they did not get all the bones out, as the water was so deep as to interfere materially with their work. So I hired a negro to go into the pit and fish about, while I from the bank, felt around with a hoe. In this way we succeeded in procuring one molar tooth, two pieces of a tusk, and

several pieces of the skull, long bones, etc., etc. The larger piece was from the base of the left tusk, two feet in length, and flattened on the inner side, evidently produced by the friction of his trunk. This specimen retains the fine polish as perfectly as when worn by the living animal. This interesting specimen I recently presented to the Academy of Science of Chicago.

Dr. Koch's report, in the "Proceedings of the St. Louis Academy of Science," is unreliable in every particular, saving the locality. The Doctor certainly exercised a lively imagination when he stated that "the bones were found in a layer of vegetable mould which was covered by twenty feet in thickness of alternate layers of sand, clay, and gravel," and that under this extensive stratification he found the identical flint arrowhead that the *Mound builders* used in slaying this giant of past ages, taking advantage of his helplessness, being mired hopelessly!!!

This skeleton was discovered by a man who scooped out a hole in the "lick" for the purpose of obtaining drinking water. He struck upon the scapula at a depth of *two feet*. This discovery was reported to Dr. Koch, at Warsaw, and he visited the locality and secured the prize.

I am pained to record this evidence of Dr. Koch's want of accuracy in this matter, but the cause of science seems to demand the truth. Dr. Koch's report has been quoted in proof of the antiquity of man. The position and state of the bones rather go to show that the Mastodon lived in an age not so remote as usually supposed. I should not be surprised if the evidence were speedily found to prove that man was contemporaneous with the Mastodon, but, certainly, the *Missourium* affords none.

FLYING SPIDERS.

BY J. H. EMERTON.

ONE of the most curious habits of spiders is that of flying, as it is often called. This has no resemblance to the flight of birds or butterflies, for spiders have no wings nor any organs which could answer the purpose of wings. Their ability to rise in the